

AUG 14 1951

Mr. Willy Heineberg
41 Park Avenue
New York 16, New York

Dear Willy,

Remembering how costly was the destruction that war brought to the villages of France, I am delighted to learn that you have consented to aid in the rebuilding of Saint-Dié. For though you say you have only a sentimental interest in aiding your former compatriots, your interest as an American in so generous and worthwhile an undertaking as this will greatly enhance the friendship that links our people to those of France.

Moreover, knowing that each of us can endure only in community with the other, I am doubly disappointed in being unable to join you as a friend of Saint-Dié. For in this peculiar trade in which we are engaged, I find that anonymity is an essential part of my job. Were I to accept your kind invitation, I do not feel that I would be complying conscientiously with the injunction given me by the President on the desirability of anonymity in this post.

And even if I were not limited by this wise and necessary restriction, I am sure that my appointment to your committee would be unfair to your colleagues. Unfortunately I am given little time for extra-curricular activities and were I unable to participate effectively in any group to which I might belong, I should hardly feel justified in identifying myself with its good work.

Like you, I cannot anticipate what reaction might be. However, I shall have no objection to your showing him this reply if you wish. Again, it was thoughtful of you to ask me. I only wish it were possible for me to help as I would like to.

Sincerely,

Walter B. Smith
Director

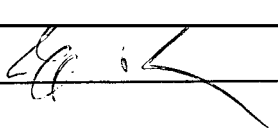
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REMARKS: Declined on the assumption that:

- a) Fund-raising projects can get out of hand no matter how laudable the sponsorship;
- b) One never makes face by badgering others for their dough no matter how worthwhile the cause.

No dope on the organization.

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